

(b) is there any gap between these two; and

(c) steps taken by Government to fill the gap?

**THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI):**

(a) and (b). The demand of coking coal by the steel sector including the coal required for manufacture of hard coke and other merchant coke ovens is estimated at 24.41 million tonnes during 1979-80. The expected despatches to steel sector in 1979-80 are estimated at 20.19 million tonnes leaving a shortfall of 4.22 million tonnes. The production of coking coal in the current year April-Jan. '80 was 18.08 million tonnes as against 17.57 million tonnes during the corresponding period last year.

(c) Several measures have been taken by Coal India Ltd. to increase the coking coal production. These include:

(i) Increasing the production of raw coal from the existing mines.

(ii) Reconstructing existing coking coal mines and opening new coking coal mines.

(iii) Constructing new coal washeries and improving the working of the existing coking coal washeries.

(iv) Identifying new sources of coking coal for use in steel plants.

(v) Improving the power supply to the mines through improved generation by DVC, installation of diesel generating sets etc. to improve the coal production in Bihar-Bengal belt which is the primary source of coking coal production in the country.

**Rebate offered by A.I.R. to its Clients of Commercial Service**

32. **SHRI R. K. MHALGI:** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the AIR offers rebate to the clients of the Commercial Broadcasting Service in respect of ad-

vertisements of a substantial nature booked on their behalf;

(b) if so, the nature of the rebate;

(c) whether it is a fact that the rebate is granted by way of refund from the full amount already collected from the clients;

(d) whether it is a fact that a large number of such claims for refunds are lying unsettled for over one year;

(e) the total number of such claims remaining unsettled as on the 31st December, 1979; and

(f) what steps are being taken to settle these claims without further delay?

**THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND SUPPLY & REHABILITATION (SHRI VASANT SATHE):** (a) to (f). A.I.R. allows discount to the advertisers on a graded scale in respect of annual business placed by an advertiser during the period of contract. The rates for such discount are as follows:

On first Rs. 50,000/-	nil
On next Rs. 50,000/-	2%
On next Rs. 50,000/-	3%
On next Rs. 50,000/- and above	4%

The above discount is released only after the verification of annual accounts by the Commercial Audit. As present nearly 214 claims are pending for settlement as on 31st December, 1979 and these will be settled as soon as the annual accounts which are under process of finalisation, are completed.

**Maintenance of Rupnarayan and Haldi River for flood prevention in Midnapur and Hooghly Districts, W.B.**

33. **SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:** Will the Minister of ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that proper maintenance of Rupnarayan and

Haldi rivers of West Bengal is essential for flood-prevention in the Districts of Midnapur and Hooghly as well as for improving condition of Hooghly river itself, on which Calcutta Port is dependent;

(b) is it also a fact that the condition of Rupnarayan and Haldi is deplorable now; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to take steps for working out and execution of effective scheme for proper maintenance of these rivers in immediate future?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURY): (a) to (c). Resuscitation, proper up keep and maintenance of not only Rupnarayan and Haldi rivers, but also of a number of other river channels like the Amta channel of the Lower Damodar, Cossayee, Darakeswar Mundeshwari rivers, are necessary to provide adequate drainage for relieving frequent inundation in areas of Midnapur and Hooghly districts and also to improve the channel conditions of Hooghly river. The sustained flow from the Farakka Barrage has substantially improved the Hooghly river.

A high level Technical Committee was set up by the West Bengal Government to examine the Lower Damodar drainage scheme which has submitted its report in July, 1978. The terms of reference to this Committee, *inter alia*, covered improving the drainage capacity of the Rupnarayan river. The decision taken by the Government of West Bengal on the recommendations of this Committee has not been intimated. However, in the Annual Plan proposals for 1980-81, an amount of Rs. 100.00 lakhs has been proposed by the Government of West Bengal. West Bengal Government have been requested to

take up Flood Plan Zoning in affected areas to minimize flood damage.

The Master Plan for Ghatol area which provides for improvement of the rivers, also includes river Haldi. This Master Plan is currently under examination by the Ganga Flood Control Commission.

**News-Item Captioned "Experts yet to suggest Teesta Water Plan"**

34. SHRI SHIV KUMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn towards a news-item appearing in the *Hindustan Times* dated the 21st February, 1980, under the caption "Experts yet to suggest Teesta Water Plant";

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government of India for a fruitful agreement between the two countries expeditiously; and

(c) the time by which the project is expected to be completed and states irrigation of the lands in India as agreed to earlier by the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission set up a Joint Committee in December 1978 for the purpose of working out an agreement on the sharing of the Teesta waters between India and Bangladesh and to this end the Joint Committee was asked to examine the availability of water at the sites, the requirements of water by each country and how these requirements could be met. The Joint Committee has so far met thrice. The Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission discussed at its recent 18th meeting held between the 27th